



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

# Public Health

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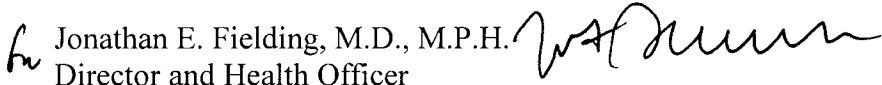
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January 18, 2007

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM:  Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **HEALTH FACILITIES INSPECTION DIVISION**

On April 18, 2006, as a result of reduced State funding for inspections of health facilities and a resulting backlog of new facilities seeking licensing, your Board took the following action:

Instructed the Acting Director of Health Services to:

- Conduct a full review of the health facility inspection process;
- Work in conjunction with the Chief Administrative Officer and County Counsel and negotiate with the State Department of Health Services on amending the County's licensure and certification contract No. 05-45391 with the State.

On June 29, 2006, I provided you with a review of the Health Facilities Inspection Division (HFID) and a discussion of the major problems its staff has faced over the past few years as a result of State budget cuts. On July 20, August 3, September 8, October 3, and November 9, 2006, I provided you with status reports.

As previously indicated, the Legislature appropriated additional funds for FY 06-07 to increase the volume of staff needed to improve the timeliness of inspections, conduct timely complaint investigations and conduct initial licensing and certification visits for new providers. Because Health Facilities Inspection Division has vacancies, the state will not process an augmentation for additional staff until the existing vacancies have been filled.

Health Facilities staff have recruited twelve additional nurse evaluators. Of the twelve, five have been hired and are in orientation and seven have accepted offers and are being processed by Human Resources. Six additional vacancies remain for which Health Facilities staff continue to work with Human Resources to fill.

Although the State has not yet negotiated the workload for the Health Facilities Inspection Division for 06-07, State staff have instructed our staff to begin processing applications for initial licensure and certification, such as for home health agencies, which had been the lowest priority for many years. Our staff has processed approximately 53 percent of the backlog. In addition, our staff has been instructed to devote more resources to complaint investigations, to be in compliance with a court order directing the State to diminish the backlog of complaints and initiate all new complaint investigations timely.

Staff provided the State with information about the final negotiated salary increases, for the State's use in preparing a budget augmentation for FY 07-08 to cover these increases.

I will provide you with a further update by February 28, 2007. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

JEF:js  
PH:604:016

c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors